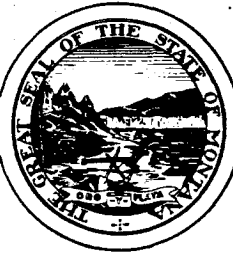


Exhibit B

DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES



AIR QUALITY BUREAU

STAN STEPHENS, GOVERNOR

COGSWELL BUILDING

STATE OF MONTANA

FAX # (406) 444-2606

HELENA, MONTANA 59620

(406) 444-3454

February 10, 1989

Don Ryan  
Columbia Falls Aluminum Co.  
P. O. Box 10  
Columbia Falls, MT 59912

Dear Mr. Ryan:

On January 6, 1989, the Board of Health and Environmental Sciences adopted rule changes to ARM 16.8.1501 and ARM 16.8.1503. In relation to those rule changes, EPA has submitted comments, one of which deals with the "unenforceability" of the 10% standard applicable to the potrooms.

EPA's Kris Knutson has maintained in conversation with me that the 10% opacity standard cannot be properly enforced and I am in agreement. With that in mind, perhaps an alternative procedure or some other means can be developed which achieves the same end. Recall that I spoke with you a few weeks ago to discuss this problem. I also spoke with CFAC's Ken Reick about the same thing.

For your information I am enclosing copies of the following:

1. Doug Skie (EPA) letter to Jeffrey T. Chaffee about the enforceability issue. Date of letter is January 17, 1989.
2. December 23, 1988, comment letter about the proposed rule changes on wood-waste burners and aluminum plants. The letter was signed by Dean Gillam for Doug Skie.
3. An article in the Environment Reporter on EPA plans to tighten New Source Review, dated 4/8/88. It appears as though EPA nationwide is reviewing state permitting programs with more intensity, but perhaps not with the same zeal as Region VIII.

I am also looking into the regulations of Washington and Oregon to see how enforceable their visible emission standards are for primary aluminum plant potrooms.

MC: LOS, TFP, AJC, KER

RECEIVED

FEB 13 1989

CFAC LAB

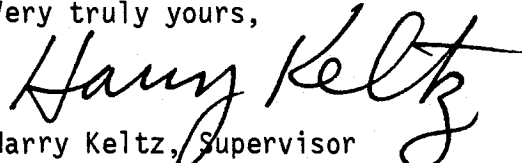
"AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER"

ARCF00001475

Don Ryan  
Page Two  
February 10, 1989

The Department would like to work with CFAC to resolve the "unenforceability" issue in a reasonable and equitable manner. Please let us know what your perspective is on the opacity standard and its enforceability so that we can put together a response to EPA. Please call with any questions or if you would like to meet to discuss this issue.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Keltz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Harry Keltz, Supervisor  
Engineering and Enforcement

HK:kh

Enclosures